

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for operating an electronic module (10) supplied with electrical energy by an operating voltage source (U_{Bat}) with a circuit unit (3) for carrying out at least one system function, wherein in the event of an operating voltage interruption ~~[[the]]~~ from the operating voltage source (U_{Bat}), a further operating voltage (U_s) is supplied by a system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) and the system function can be activated by ~~means of the an~~ energy reserve supplied by a function-autonomous capacitor (C_z) and wherein furthermore the system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) is charged by a voltage converter (1) connected to the operating voltage source (U_{Bat}), characterized in that the function-autonomous capacitor ~~[[C_z]]~~ (C_z) is connected to the voltage converter (1) and to the system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) by ~~means of~~ a charging connection (5) and in that said charging connection (5) is controllable in following operating states:

- a) as a switch for clocking the charging current ~~charging that charges~~ the function-autonomous capacitor ~~[[C_z]]~~ (C_z), and
- b) as a controllable resistance for producing a constant discharging current for ~~checking testing~~ the system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) and for producing a ~~re-loading re-charging~~ current for ~~re-loading re-charging~~ the function-autonomous capacitor (C_z).

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1 2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that ~~for checking the testing of the~~
3 ~~system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) it is discharged~~ comprises
4 discharging the system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) by the
5 discharging current into the function-autonomous
6 capacitor (C_z).

Claims 3 to 5 (canceled).

1 6. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that the charging connection (5)
3 ~~is established by means of~~ comprises at least one
4 transistor element (T) and ~~[[by]]~~ a resistance (R) ~~which is~~
5 series-connected to ~~[[it-]]~~ said transistor element.

1 7. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that an up-converter is used as ~~[[a]]~~ said
3 voltage converter (1).

1 8. (Currently amended) Use of the method according to claim 1
2 in a motor vehicle control device with a power module (3)
3 as ~~[[a]]~~ said circuit unit for triggering a ~~security unit~~
4 vehicle collision safety device (4), wherein in the event
5 of ~~[[an]]~~ the operating voltage interruption the system
6 function ~~[[is]]~~ comprises the provision of the energy
7 reserve as an ignition energy for said vehicle collision
8 safety device by means of the function-autonomous capacitor
9 serving as an ignition-autonomous capacitor (C_z).

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